Pest Alert

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Northeastern Area

NA-FB/P-30 - 1985

Red Pine Pocket Mortality - Unknown Cause

Continuing mortality of red pine from an unknown cause has been observed in 30 to 40 year old plantations in southern and west central Wisconsin. A single tree or small group of trees die, followed by mortality of adjacent trees. These circular pockets of dead trees expand up to 0.3 acre per year.

Close up of pocket of dying red pine

Aerial photo of pocket of dying red pine

Dying trees have reduced leader and branch-tip growth, loss of older needles, and fading of needle color. Bark beetles or root collar weevils are sometimes associated with the dying trees, but are not considered to be the primary cause of mortality.

Send reports of damage to: Jane Cummings
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